

## CAPTAIN J. G. WILLIE'S

Or, the Fourth Handcart Company of 1856.  
BY JOSIAH ROGERSON.

The names of this company will be given first in place, for it ever in print before, it is over fifty years ago.

The members of this company, mainly, if not all, sailed from the Brimmer-Moore docks at Liverpool, Lancashire, England, in the ship Thornton, May 4, 1856, landing at New York June 14, and arrived at Iowa Hill, near Iowa City, Ia., about the 27th of June, 1856. When the Mormon emigrants that sailed from Liverpool, Lancashire, England, May 25, in the Horizon, and comprising the whole of Martin's handcart company and Hunt's and Hodgett's wagon companies, arrived on Iowa Hill, Ia., July 8 and 9, 1856, Willie's company was then nearly ready to leave that camp with their handcars and tents all made, wagons loaded with provisions, etc., for the 1,500-mile journey to the Great Salt Lake valley. Utah, and made their start on the 10th or 12th of July, a day or two after Martin's company reached there.

Names of the company from England—

Captain J. G. Willie and William Woodward, returning missionaries; John Chislett, Ann Osborn, Thomas Moulton and family, Jesse Impey and family, William Reed and family, Joseph Osborn and family, Sarah Charles, William Edwick, Alfred Peacock, Jennie Rogers and daughter, Mary P. Griffiths, Susannah Stone, Mine A. Cook, Sarah A. Williams, Esther Miller, Elizabeth Tite, Betsey Stanley, Mary A. Stockdale, Julia and Emily Hill, the postess, Amelia Evans, Cecilia and Sarah Norris, the latter the wife of Elder Jenkins Evans and residents of Parowan, Iron county, Utah, for the last fifty years; Mary A. and Adelaide Cooper, David Reader and family, Mary A. Bird and family, Joseph Wall and wife, Benjamin Culey, Rebecca Langman, Rebecca Pilgrim, Elizabeth and Jane Culey, Ann Oliver, Ann Cooper, Theophilus Corp, Thomas Girlestone and family, James H. Green and family, William Philpot and family, Rose Key and family, Sam Gadd and family, Mary A. Perkins, John Linford and family, Mary A. Miller, Ann Howard, Mary E. Bretton, Mary and Elizabeth Fanner, Samuel Witts, Ann Bryant, Thomas Hooley, Charles Gumer and family, Anna and Mary Kirby, John Nockolds, Abraham O. and wife, George and family, George Ingraham and wife, Kithy Ann Tassell, Ellen Toffield, Lucy Ward, James Oliver, Elizabeth Kirkpatrick, James Gardner and family, William Halley and wife, Joseph Hardwick and wife, Mary and Hannah Dorney, Edward Bowles and wife, Jane Rowley, Thomas Oakley and family, Edward Wheeler and family, Frederick Wall and wife, Janet and Mary Hodges, Emma Summers, Sarah Stead, Martha Chetwin, Mary Ann Newman (widow), her daughters, Eliza, Mary Ann, Caroline and Ellen, and sons, William and John, residents of Parowan, Iron county, Utah, since 1856; Sophia Cook and daughter, Richard and Ann Godfrey, Anna Herbert and son, Thomas and Enoch Bowles, John Roberts, William Jeffrey, Richard Hardwick, Richard Turner, George Humphries and family, Eliza Withom and son, Mercy Miller and son, Elizabeth Panting and family, James Reed and family, Martha Campbell and family, John James, George Curtis, William James and family, Harriet and Ellen C. Showell, Sarah West, Mary Roberts, Ellen Jones, William Smith and wife, John Bailey and family, Ann Rowley and family, residents of Parowan, Iron county, Utah, for fifty years; William Page,

From Wales—Catherine M. Griffiths, Edward Griffiths.

From Scotland—Allen M. Findlay and family, residents of Panacea, Nev., for thirty years; Archibald McPhail and family, Margery Smith and family, residents of Beaver City, Utah, for thirty years; Alexander Birt or Burt, Salt Lake, Utah; Thomas Stewart and family, David Anderson, carpenter, resident of Salt Lake for fifty years; William Ledington and family, James Gibb and wife, Andrew Smith of Salt Lake, Mary A. Catchwell and family, Barbara Kelly, Ann Tesit, Christina McNeil, John McCollie, Jane A. Stuart, Isabella Wilkey, John Stuart and family, John Kelly and wife, Elizabeth Forbes, From Ireland—Joseph McKee (or McKay), Margaret Douglass.

From Sweden—John Ahmanson.

From Bombay—Elizabeth Teait.

From the United States—Millen Atwood, Levi Savage, returning missionaries.

From Denmark—Peter Madsen and wife, Peter Jacobson and family, Ann Olsen, Berta Neilsen, Emma Neilsen, Marcen Gregerson, Ella Neilsen, Louisa Loutross, Johanna Maria Jensen (afterward the mother of James J. and J. Willard Squires, barbers of this city for many years), and her sister, Catherine Jensen; Mart and Anne Anderson, Jens Sanberk, Anders Christensen, Cassius Hanson, Oleo Wickland and family, Jens Peterson and family, Jens Nelson and family, Peter Larson and family, Paul Jacobson and wife, Rasmus P. Hanson, Marcen Jergerson, Christen Jergerson, Carsten Jensen, Nils Anderson and family, Andres Jensen and family, Rasmus Hanson and wife, Lars Vandelin, Peter Mortenson and family, residents of Parowan, Iron county, Utah, for fifty years; Nils Hanson and wife, Anders Jergerson and family, Sophia Peterson and family, Peter Madsen and family, Ole Madsen, Petrina C. Jones.

Although Captain J. G. Willie's company left Iowa Hill, Ia., some fourteen or sixteen days ahead of ours, Martin's company, with the middle of July weather, and which they made good use of—and all possible haste to Florence or Winterquarters, Neb., and got away from there with only a few days' rest, losing no time from there to Fort Kearney, and realizing the value of the good weather and the date that they should reach and pass Fort Laramie; yet before reaching the latter landmark, on the dreary plains, they seemed fated that by a little possible lassitude on the part of their guard at night over their cattle, and where it was more necessary than any other part of the journey to meet with their most crippling disaster in the loss by the Cheyenne Indians of half, or more, of their draught oxen.

This to them—at that time and place, was an irreparable loss and fatality, and from which they could not and did not recover to the end of their journey. They had made good headway from the start, with more single and able-bodied members, in comparison to Captain Martin's company, that really contained, and as heretofore recorded, the most aged and infirm, and the cleanings up of that season's emigration.

This loss of half their draught oxen necessitated the unloading onto the carts of the company of half the provisions in the wagons, and taking into consideration the three or four days' rest in the hunting for the cattle, without moving camp, and after conceding further quest to be hopeless and needless, their travel for the next two and three weeks with but little more than one yoke of oxen to the wagon, was greatly hindered and impeded, placing the company back from where they would have been without this loss, not less than 125 miles.

The company did not lack by any means for members of hardihood, health, strength and endurance, for Captain Willie came to the relief party below the mouth of Willow creek, after dark at night, on Monday, October 20, 1856, and with what assistance they received from that on they were enabled to reach Salt Lake City on Sunday, November 9, the morning Martin's company left the "Ravine," three miles west of Devil's Gate and 550 miles from Salt Lake City.

This loss on their part figures out almost proportionately with them as the unnecessary delay on Iowa Hill, Ia., of sixteen days waiting for the handcars to be made after we got there, did to Martin's company, for now it is proof beyond question that sixteen days of fairly good weather and dry ground would have landed the latter company from the Platte bridge in the vicinity of Big Sandy or Green river, but the knowledge of the future is often withheld from the most gifted and wise and for a purpose best known to Himself.

One paragraph more from the late President Franklin D. Richards' Journal on his return from Florence, Neb., to Salt Lake that season, and then follows Captain J. G. Willie's report, which is the best authority as to the travels, hardships, sufferings and losses by death of his company.

Friday, Sept. 12, 1856—We overtook and camped with Brother Willie's company at North Bluff creek, consisting of 404 persons, six wagons, 87 handcars, six yoke of oxen, thirty-two cows and five mules. They were considerably weakened by the loss of their oxen

which they had failed to recover, but were in good spirits and averaging fourteen to sixteen miles a day. Here we forded the Platte river to the south side and were followed by the handcars.

Never was a more soul-stirring sight than the party and the passage of this company over that river. Several of the carts were drawn entirely by women, yet their hearts were glad and full of hope.

It will be remembered that President Franklin D. Richards and his company of returning missionaries left Florence, Neb., on September 2, passing Martin's company on Sunday, September 7, and in five days more overtook Willie's company as above recorded. This would then place the latter company from 125 to 150 miles west of Martin's, and in the vicinity of Fort Kearney, where their cattle were stolen.

Captain James G. Willie's digest of his journal of the journey of his company from Liverpool, England, to Salt Lake City, Utah.

Synopsis of the fourth handcart company's trip from Liverpool, England, to Great Salt Lake City, in the spring, summer and autumn of 1856.

(Written by Elder James G. Willie, Captain.)

On Thursday, May 1, the ship Thornton, Captain Collins, received the Saints (751 in number) on board the ship in the Brimmer-Moore docks, Liverpool, and on the following Saturday, President F. D. Richards, accompanied by the government inspector and doctor, came on board, and the Saints answered to the usual inspection and were all pronounced by those officers to be in good health. President Richards appointed myself (James G. Willie) captain of the company, and Elder Millen Atwood, Moses Clough and Johan A. Ahmanson, my counselors, and afterward in a few appropriate remarks exhorted the people to strict obedience on the passage, as otherwise they could not expect, and would not have a prosperous journey. President Richards then asked them if they had the name of the Lord and by authority of the holy priesthood, Captain Willie then made the usual appointments for the promotion of cleanliness and good order, and on Sunday, May 4, at 2 a. m., the company was tucked out of the river by the Pilot. Sea-sickness soon commenced, but through the blessings of the Lord it was not frequent during the voyage, and which terminated at New York on the 14th of June. The spirit of the Lord prevailed. The ship's captain yielded to the influence which surrounded him, and was kind and affable to all, often voluntarily giving from his own table for the comfort of the sick and infirm, and otherwise ministering to their wants with his own hands. He and his wife, and I, and I felt all the time and still feel to say "God bless Captain Collins." By his sanction meetings (at which he was generally present for preaching and bearing testimony) were held in the quarterdeck, and every liberty which could in reason be expected was granted by him. He often, in polite terms, complimented the Saints upon their cleanliness and good order, and in compliance with his requests from time to time, and said he never wished for a better or more orderly lot of passengers.

They certainly deserved the captain's encomium, for with scarcely an exception, they did their utmost to carry out to the very letter the instructions given. Previous to landing at New York a testing trial, expressive of the captain's appreciation of the captain's and the doctor's kindness, was presented to them by myself; and one signed by the captain, first mate and doctor, on behalf of themselves and the ship's company, was presented to me on behalf of the Saints. On our arrival at Castle Gardens, New York, we received a hearty welcome from President John Taylor and Elder F. D. Richards, several men of the press also paid us a visit and were very courteous toward us, appearing desirous to obtain information concerning the company from its officers, and subsequently several paragraphs appeared in different New York newspapers in praise of the general appearance and demeanor of the entire company. On Tuesday, June 17, they started under the presidency of Elder Levi Savage for Dunkirk, a distance of 460 miles, where they arrived on the 19th, leaving Brother Atwood and myself behind to transact sundry items of business. We, however, arrived at Dunkirk by express train on the same day, and immediately embarked with the Saints on the Jersey City for Toledo, 280 miles further, where we arrived on Saturday, the 21st, in good health and spirits. We at once started per rail for Chicago, which we reached on the following day. I should mention that the railway authorities at Toledo manifested a very unkind spirit toward toward us, putting us to every inconvenience in their power. The conductor compelled us to land in the streets of Chicago, but the superintendent there gave us the use of an empty warehouse for the night. The day MCETU(((((S,raeclcfvvgx,fi : next day (the 23d) most of the English Saints left per rail at 3 p. m. and the rest at 11 p. m. for Rock Island. On the first train arriving at Pond Creek, the next day, it was ascertained that the railway bridge there had fallen down while a previous train was passing over it. Several brethren, including Brothers — and Erastus Snow, were in the train, and although many of the passengers were seriously injured, they escaped unhurt. We slept in the cars, and on the 25th the remainder of our company came up. We had much difficulty in obtaining provisions.

## CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Episcopal.

St. Mark's Cathedral—225 East First South street. Very Rev. Benjamin Brewster, dean. Services for the Third Sunday in Advent: 8 a. m., holy communion; 9:45 a. m., Sunday school; 11 a. m., morning service and sermon; 4 p. m., Bible study, conducted by the dean; 7:30 p. m., evening prayer and sermon.

St. Peter's Chapel—657 North Second West street. Sunday school at 9:45 a. m.; evening prayer and sermon at 7:30 p. m. Dean Brewster officiating.

St. Paul's Church—Main and Fourth South streets. Rev. Charles E. Perkins, rector. Holy communion, 8 a. m.; Sunday school, 9:45 a. m.; morning service and sermon at 11 o'clock; evening service and sermon at 7:30 o'clock.

St. John's Chapel—Ninth East street and Logan avenue. Sunday school at 2:45 p. m.; evening prayer and sermon by Rev. C. E. Perkins at 4 o'clock.

## Presbyterian.

First Presbyterian Church—Corner of South Temple and C streets. Rev. William M. Faden, D.D., pastor. Morning service, 11 o'clock; evening service, 7:30 o'clock; Sunday school, 12:30 p. m.; Young People's society Sunday evening at 7 o'clock; midweek services on Wednesday night; teachers' meeting at 7:30; prayer and confession at 8 p. m.

Westminster Presbyterian Church—Fourth West between First and Second South streets. Rev. Charles McIntire, pastor. Residence, 274 West Fifth South. Morning worship, 11 o'clock; sermon, "The Ministry of Temptation," one of a series of sermons, "The Lord's Prayer"; special temperance service in the evening at 7:30. Dr. C. F. Pinkerton and Judge G. F. Goodwin will speak on the evil of intemperance from the viewpoint of their professions; Sunday school and Bible class for all, 12:15 lesson, "The Boy Samuel"; Endeavor Sunday school, 1:30; Senior Christian Endeavor, 6:30, topic, "Testimony of Christ"; prayer and conference, Wednesday night at 7:45, subject, "What Does Christmas Mean to You?"

Third Presbyterian Church—Eleventh East and Eleventh South. Herbert E. Hays, pastor. Preaching service at 11 a. m., subject, "He That Sleepeth in Harvest"; preaching service at 7:30 p. m., Professor Byron Cummings of the state university will speak on "Whither Goeth Thou?" Sunday school at 12:15, lesson, "The Boy Samuel"; Christian Endeavor at 6:30 p. m., topic, "Testimony for Christ"; prayer meeting Wednesday at 7:30 p. m., "Studies in the Book of Hebrews."

## Congregational.

First Congregational Church—Corner of First South and Fourth East streets. Services at 11 a. m., sermon by the pastor, Elmer I. Goshen.

## Methodist.

First Methodist Episcopal Church—Second East and Second South streets. Dr. Francis B. Short, pastor. Class meeting at 10 a. m., Judge Goodwin, leader; preaching at 11 a. m., subject, "Indisputable Evidence of Christ's Love"; Sunday school at 12:15 p. m., H. J. Stearns, superintendent; Epworth League at 6:30 p. m., Harry C. Scott, president; preaching at 7:30 p. m., subject, "The Old Man; or Who's Boss at Your House?"

Bluff M. E. Church—Ninth East and First South. D. M. Helmick, pastor. Preaching service at 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. The pastor, Miss Ruby Christensen will sing a solo at the morning service; Sunday school at 12:15 p. m.; Epworth League at 6:30 p. m., S. J. Townsend, president of the league, will lead the services.

Norwegian and Danish M. E. Church—328 South Fourth East street. Rev. J. L. Hansen, pastor. Sunday school at 10 a. m.; preaching at 11 a. m. in the Scandinavian language; Epworth League at 7:30 p. m.

## Lutheran.

Holy Trinity English Lutheran church, 238 South Fourth East street; Rev. F. W. Bussard, pastor—Third Sunday in Advent. Sunday school at 10 a. m.; teachers' and officers' meeting. Regular church service at 11 o'clock.

Swedish Lutheran church, Second South and Fourth East streets. Sunday school, 10 a. m. Morning service, 11 a. m.; sermon by pastor; subject, "The Obstinacy of Unbelief." Bible school at 8 p. m. King Oscar Memorial services; address in Swedish, Professor Thorild Arnoldson, 124 South Third East street, in English, Rev. Emanuel Rydberg; solo, "The Great White Throne," Mrs. O. I. Shugren; recitation, "Easter Hymn," poem by King Oscar, Anders Nordvall; chorus, "Bli kvar hos mig," church choir.

German Lutheran St. John's church, Seventh South and State streets. Rev. William J. Lankow, pastor—Sunday school at 9:30 a. m. Divine service at 10:30 a. m.

The Danish Evangelical Lutheran church, Rev. Harold Jensen, pastor; residence, 424 Fourth avenue. Services at 2 p. m. at the Swedish Lutheran church, corner of Second South and Fourth East streets. Subject, "The Source of Life." His Ways." Sunday school at 2 p. m.; George Elmsmark, superintendent.

## Baptist.

Calvary Baptist church (colored), 474 East Second South street; Rev. John H. Allen, pastor. Sunday school at 11 a. m. and 8 p. m. Sabbath school at 12:30 p. m. Young People's society at 7 p. m. Subject at 8 p. m., "The Source of Life's Troubles."

## Unitarian.

First Unitarian society, 138 Second East street; Rev. William Thurston Brown, minister—Sunday preaching service at 11 a. m. and 8 p. m. Mr. Brown will give the third in a series of lectures on modern exemplars of religion. Subject, "How to Live a Better Humanity." Mr. Crosby was widely known as Tolstoy's closest friend in America, as well as for his work as a poet and reformer. Music by Unity quartette. The Lloyd alliance will give a Kensington, Tuesday, Dec. 17, at 2:30 p. m. Mrs. Straup will read a paper on "The Babylonian Civilization and Religion."

## Scientist.

First Church of Christ, Scientist, 238 East Third South street—Sunday school at 9:45 a. m. Church services at 11 a. m. and 8 p. m. Subject, "Is the Universe Evolved by Atomic Force?" Wednesday evening at 8 o'clock a meeting is held for the purpose of telling of the healing of sin and disease. Free reading rooms, open daily, except Sunday, from 10 a. m. to 5 p. m., in Rooms 65-67 Scott building, 168 Main street.

Second Church of Christ, Scientist, Ladies' Literary Club building, 20 South Third East—Lesson sermon at 11 a. m.; subject, "Is the Universe, Including Man, Evolved by Atomic Force?" Sunday school at 12:15 p. m. Wednesday evening testimonial meeting at 8 o'clock.

## Christian.

Central Christian church, corner of Third East and Fourth South streets; Rev. Albert Buxton, Ph. D., pastor; residence, 468 Fifth East street. Ind. phone, 2291.—Sunday school, 9:45 a. m. Christian Endeavor, 6:30 p. m. Sermons by Dr. Buxton at 11 a. m. and 7:45 p. m. Prayer meeting Wednesday night.

## Reorganized.

Commencing Sunday, the Reorganized L. D. S. will hold services in Room 1, Federation hall, corner State and Fourth South streets. Sunday school, 9 a. m. Preaching at 11 a. m. Scandinavian preaching service, 3 p. m. Book of Mormon study at 6 p. m., and preaching again at 7:30 p. m.

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